

For Immediate Release: March 5, 2009

Contact:

Jodie Tabak (414) 286-8504

MAYOR BARRETT ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$5.8 MILLION TO FIGHT CRIME IN MILWAUKEE

Federal funds can be used for law enforcement, drug treatment programs

Mayor Tom Barrett announced today that the City of Milwaukee will receive \$5.79 million to fight crime from the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

"Public safety has always been my top priority, so I am very pleased with the federal government's decision to assist Milwaukee in reducing crime and making the city a better and safer place to live," Barrett said. "I look forward to working with the Milwaukee Police Department and other local public safety organizations to find the most effective way to put these funds to use."

Byrne grants provide local governments with the funds necessary to finance programs, purchase equipment or create jobs in any of the following areas:

- Law enforcement programs
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education programs
- Corrections and community corrections programs
- Drug treatment programs
- Planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs
- Crime victim and witness programs

In 2006, Milwaukee used \$371,873 in Byrne grant money to purchase video cameras for squad cars to record traffic stops and monitor prisoner activity in the cars. The City will submit its plan for this year's funds to the Department of Justice in about a month.

The Byrne JAG Program is named after a New York City police officer killed in the line of duty by members of a drug gang 21 years ago.